



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P O Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

32864 7590 10/08/2009

FISH & RICHARDSON, P.C.
PO BOX 1022
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022

EXAMINER

KARDOS, NEIL R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3623

DATE MAILED: 10/08/2009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,565	07/29/2003	Karsten Schulz	13909-026001 / 2002P00222	4843

TITLE OF INVENTION: WORKFLOW MANAGEMENT ARCHITECTURE

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	01/08/2010

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax **(571) 273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

32864 7590 10/08/2009

FISH & RICHARDSON, P.C.
PO BOX 1022
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or by facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,565	07/29/2003	Karsten Schulz	13909-026001 / 2002P00222	4843

TITLE OF INVENTION: WORKFLOW MANAGEMENT ARCHITECTURE

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	01/08/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
KARDOS, NEIL R	3623	705-009000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.

"Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

(1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively,
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1 _____
 2 _____
 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): Individual Corporation or other private group entity Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

Issue Fee
 Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
 Advance Order - # of Copies _____

A check is enclosed.
 Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
 The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS; SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P O Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/628,565	07/29/2003	Karsten Schulz	13909-026001 / 20021000222	4843
32864	7590	10/08/2009	EXAMINER	
FISH & RICHARDSON, P.C. PO BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022				KARDOS, NEIL R
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3623		DATE MAILED: 10/08/2009		

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 1111 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 1111 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/628,565	SCHULZ ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to response filed September 8, 2009.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5-14,16,17,20-29,31 and 33-44.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 9/8/2009
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

/Neil R. Kardos/
Examiner, Art Unit 3623

/Beth V. Boswell/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3623

DETAILED ACTION

The following Office Action is a response to the request for continued examination filed on September 8, 2009. The specification has been amended by examiner's amendment. Claims 1, 16, 31, and 33 have been amended by examiner's amendment. Currently, claims 1, 2, 5-14, 16, 17, 20-29, 31, and 33-44 are pending and have been allowed. This action includes an examiner's amendment and reasons for allowance.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 8, 2009 has been entered.

Specification

The amendment to the specification filed on September 8, 2009 has not been entered. Rather, the specification has been amended by the examiner's amendment below.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR

1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given by Ryan McCarthy on September 23, 2009.

Please amend the application as follows:

In the Specification

Amend page 13, beginning at line 14, of the originally-filed specification as follows:

FIG. 4 is a diagram of ~~an~~ a computer architecture 400 for implementing a three-tier workflow model. In FIG. 4, a first workflow management computer system 402 includes a variety of elements designed to perform at least the following tasks . . .

Amend page 14, beginning at line 9, of the originally-filed specification as follows:

A user agent 412 is a human user's interface to the workflow computer system 402. . . .

Amend page 16, beginning at line 7, of the originally-filed specification as follows:

Finally with respect to mediator 446, a security manager 454 interacts with the security managers 420 and 442, and the certificate authority 422, to ensure secure communications between the mediator 424 and the workflow management computer systems 402 and 426.

The originally-filed specification contains support for these amendments at least in figure 9, page 27: line 5 through page 28: line 15, and page 16: lines 10-17.

In the Claims:

1. A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program comprising instructions that, when executed, operate to cause a computer to perform operations comprising:

providing a first workflow associated with only a first party, the first workflow including a first plurality of actual tasks;

generating a first workflow view representing an abstracted first workflow different from and based on the first workflow, the first workflow view including a first virtual task as an abstraction of the first plurality of actual tasks, and expressing the first virtual task as a first vertex within a first workflow view matrix;

providing a second workflow associated with only a second party, the second workflow including a second plurality of actual tasks;

generating a second workflow view representing an abstracted second workflow different from and based on the second workflow, the second workflow view including a second virtual task as an abstraction of the second plurality of actual tasks, and expressing the second virtual task as a second vertex within a second workflow view matrix;

generating a third workflow view based on the second workflow and including a third virtual task as an abstraction of the second plurality of actual tasks, the third virtual task being different than the second virtual task;

generating a first coalition workflow view referencing the first workflow view and the second workflow view to provide a first collaborative workflow, the first collaborative workflow specifying tasks that the first party and the second party are required to perform; and

generating a second coalition workflow view referencing the third workflow view to provide a second collaborative workflow view, the second collaborative workflow specifying tasks that the second party is required to perform

wherein generating the first workflow view further comprises:

receiving a first user input selecting one of the first plurality of actual tasks that the user intends to be maintained as private;

when the selected actual task comprises a type split task ~~or a type activity task~~, traversing the first workflow in two directions to find two type join tasks ~~or two adjacent tasks~~, ~~respectively~~, one task in each direction;

when the selected actual task comprises a type activity task, traversing the first workflow in two directions to find two adjacent tasks, one task in each direction;

identifying a respective path from the selected actual task to each of the type join tasks or each of the adjacent tasks;

providing one or more of the paths as possible user selections ~~v-structures to the user for selection~~;

receiving a second user input selecting one of the paths, the selected path including at least the selected one of the first plurality of actual tasks; and abstracting the selected path in the first workflow view.

16. A method comprising:

storing a first workflow and a second workflow in a computer-readable storage medium, the first workflow being associated with only a first party and including a first plurality of actual tasks, and the second workflow being associated with only a second party and including a second plurality of actual tasks;

accessing the first and second workflows from the computer-readable storage medium;

generating, using one or more computer processors a workflow management computer system, a first workflow view representing an abstracted first workflow different from and based on the first workflow, the first workflow view including a first virtual task as an abstraction of the first plurality of actual tasks;

expressing the first virtual task as a first vertex within a first workflow view matrix;

generating a second workflow view representing an abstracted second workflow different from and based on the second workflow, the second workflow view including a second virtual task as an abstraction of the second plurality of actual tasks;

expressing the second virtual task as a second vertex within a second workflow view matrix;

generating a third workflow view based on the second workflow and including a third virtual task as an abstraction of the second plurality of actual tasks, the third virtual task being different than the second virtual task;

including the first workflow view and the second workflow view within a first coalition workflow view to provide a first collaborative workflow, the first collaborative workflow specifying tasks that the first party and the second party are required to perform; and

including the third workflow view within a second coalition workflow view to provide a second collaborative workflow view, the second collaborative workflow specifying tasks that the second party is required to perform

wherein generating the first workflow view further comprises:

receiving a first user input selecting one of the first plurality of actual tasks that the user intends to be maintained as private;

when the selected actual task comprises a type split task ~~or a type activity task~~, traversing the first workflow in two directions to find two type join tasks ~~or two adjacent tasks~~, respectively, one task in each direction;

when the selected actual task comprises a type activity task, traversing the first workflow in two directions to find two adjacent tasks, one task in each direction;

identifying a respective path from the selected actual task to each of the type join tasks ~~or each of~~ the adjacent tasks;

providing one or more of the paths as possible user selections ~~v~~ structures to the user for selection;

receiving a second user input selecting one of the paths, the selected path including at least the selected one of the first plurality of actual tasks; and
abstracting the selected path in the first workflow view.

31. (Currently Amended) A workflow management computer system comprising:
~~a computer readable storage medium encoded with a computer program comprising~~
~~instructions that, when executed, operate to cause a computer to perform operations comprising:~~

a computer operable to:

provide providing a first workflow that is associated with only a first party, the first workflow including a first plurality of actual tasks;

generate generating a first virtual workflow as an abstracted first workflow different from and based on the first workflow, the first workflow view including a first virtual task as an abstraction of the first plurality of actual tasks and expressing the first virtual task as a first vertex within a first workflow view matrix;

provide providing a second workflow associated with only a second party, the second workflow including a second plurality of actual tasks;

generate generating a second workflow view representing an abstracted second workflow different from and based on the second workflow, the second workflow view including a second virtual task as an abstraction of the second plurality of actual tasks and expressing the second virtual task a second vertex within a second workflow view matrix;

generate generating a third workflow view based on the second workflow and including a third virtual task as an abstraction of the second plurality of actual tasks, the third virtual task being different than the second virtual task;

generate generating a first coalition workflow view referencing the first workflow view and the second workflow view to provide a first collaborative workflow, the collaborative workflow specifying tasks that the first party and the second party are required to perform; and

generate generating a second coalition workflow view referencing the third workflow view to provide a second collaborative workflow view, the second collaborative workflow specifying tasks that the second party is required to perform

wherein, in generating the first workflow view, the computer is further operable to
comprises:

receive receiving a first user input selecting one of the first plurality of actual
tasks that the user intends to be maintained as private;

when the selected actual task comprises a type split task or a type activity task,
traverse traversing the first workflow in two directions to find two type join tasks or two adjacent
tasks, respectively, one task in each direction;

when the selected actual task comprises a type activity task, traverse the first
workflow in two directions to find two adjacent tasks, one task in each direction;

identify identifying a respective path from the selected actual task to each of the
type join tasks or each of the adjacent tasks;

provide providing one or more of the paths as possible user selections v-structures
to the user for selection;

receive receiving a second user input selecting one of the paths, the selected path
including at least the selected one of the first plurality of actual tasks; and

abstract the selected path in the first workflow view.

33. The system of claim 31 wherein the computer is operations further comprise associating
operable to associate a virtual execution state of the first virtual task with respective execution
states of the first plurality of actual tasks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 2, 5-14, 16, 17, 20-29, 31, and 33-44 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art, Schulz ("Architecting Cross-Organisational B2B Interactions") in view of Kafeza ("View-Based Contracts in an E-Service Cross-Organizational Workflow Environment") teaches abstracting workflows of actual tasks associated with private parties as virtual tasks in abstracted workflow views. Schulz in view of Kafeza also teaches generating coalition workflows that reference the abstracted workflows of the private parties. However, Schulz in view of Kafeza does not teach the specific claimed method of generating workflow views, including: *receiving a first user input selecting one of the first plurality of actual tasks that the user intends to be maintained as private; when the selected actual task comprises a type split task, traversing the first workflow in two directions to find two type join tasks one task in each direction; when the selected actual task comprises a type activity task, traversing the first workflow in two directions to find two adjacent tasks, one task in each direction; identifying a respective path from the selected actual task to each of the type join tasks or each of the adjacent tasks; providing one or more of the paths as possible user selections; receiving a second user input selecting one of the paths, the selected path including at least the selected one of the first plurality of actual tasks; and abstracting the selected path in the first workflow view.*

Shen ("Coordinating Interorganizational Workflows Based on Process-Views") also teaches abstracting workflows of actual tasks associated with private parties as virtual tasks in

abstracted workflow views and generating coalition workflows that reference the abstracted workflows of the private parties. Shen also discloses types of task "join" and "split." However, Shen does not teach *receiving a first user input selecting one of the first plurality of actual tasks that the user intends to be maintained as private; when the selected actual task comprises a type split task, traversing the first workflow in two directions to find two type join tasks one task in each direction; when the selected actual task comprises a type activity task, traversing the first workflow in two directions to find two adjacent tasks, one task in each direction; identifying a respective path from the selected actual task to each of the type join tasks or each of the adjacent tasks; providing one or more of the paths as possible user selections; receiving a second user input selecting one of the paths, the selected path including at least the selected one of the first plurality of actual tasks; and abstracting the selected path in the first workflow view.*

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Neil R. Kardos whose telephone number is (571) 270-3443. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Beth Boswell can be reached on (571) 272-6737. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Neil R. Kardos
Examiner
Art Unit 3623

/Neil R. Kardos/
Examiner, Art Unit 3623

/Beth V. Boswell/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3623